



# BIOGRAPHY

**Rob Thorpe,**  
"Group Leader, R&D"  
Southwest Research Institute

Rob Thorpe is a project manager, senior systems design engineer, and manager of a software development group at Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) in San Antonio, Texas, with over 20 years in the aerospace and software industries. He designs and implements science instrument ground systems and project management systems for several NASA projects, including the Cassini Mission to Saturn, the New Horizons mission to Pluto, the Rosetta comet mission for the European Space Agency, among others.

At SwRI, Mr. Thorpe manages software development projects and is also personally involved in the design of web-database computer systems that command science instruments and analyze science data for several NASA robotic spacecraft. In the development of these computer systems, Mr. Thorpe was one of the early pioneers in adapting Java-web-database technology in space support-system design. NASA recognized these systems in three separate award presentations for "the creative development of a technological contribution ... determined to be of significant value in the advancement of space and aeronautical activities of NASA."

Mr. Thorpe also designs and manages the development of several project management systems, including the Project Information Management System (PIMS), which has been commended by NASA review panels and project teams. His software development group has been directly involved in the development of more than fifteen custom-designed web-database systems. He has delivered several presentations on web-database system design, including recent presentations at Space Ops 2002 and the Project Management Institute Conference North America 2004.



NASA Project Management Conference